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# Camp Randall Memorial Arch

DEDICATED JUNE 18-19, 1912

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1861

Remember old Camp Randall,  
And the days of sixty-one,  
When we were gay young soldiers—  
Our service just begun;  
Remember our dear comrades  
Who marched with us away  
But fell amid the strife,—  
Remember them to-day.

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## CAMP RANDALL MEMORIAL ARCH

Dedication June 18-19, 1912

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**Dear Comrade:**—I am writing this letter to you so that I may tell you about something in which I know you will be interested.

I told you in my letter to you last year that a movement was on foot to erect at the Dayton street entrance to Old Camp Randall a memorial arch and gateway. Well, the legislature of 1911 passed a bill setting apart a piece of ground just inside the gate where we used to go in and out—when we had passes—not to exceed four hundred square rods, for a Camp Randall Memorial Park, and appropriating \$25,000 for the improvement of the park and to erect at the entrance a Memorial Arch. The bill provided for the appointment of a commission of three comrades whose business it should be to cause this work to be done.

Governor McGovern appointed for this commission three as capable and worthy comrades as could be found in the state,—Colonel J. A. Watrous, an Iron Brigade soldier, adjutant of the Sixth Wisconsin; Colonel C. E. Warner, at the close of the war the gallant one-armed commander of the Thirty-sixth Wisconsin; and W. J. McKay, a boy soldier of the Forty-fourth Wisconsin. All had their first lessons in the service that helped save our country from disunion in Camp Randall.

These comrades went about their work with a will,—with as much real patriotism as they had in the old camp fifty years ago. It was not an easy thing to select a design when many persons had different opinions about what would be best. After courteous consideration of many suggested ideas and plans, the members of the commission decided upon the form of arch to be erected and gave the contract for the work to the Woodbury Granite Company, the same people who are building the new State Capitol.

Last May the work on the arch was so far along that the commission decided upon Tuesday and Wednesday, June 18 and 19, as the time for the dedication services. It was suggested that

those two days would be a most fitting time for a general reunion of regiments once in Camp Randall, and so certain regiments made plans for coming together once more. The two taking special pains to get into line were the Eleventh and Twenty-third.

There was some talk among certain comrades about sending notice to every member of the Twelfth that a reunion of our regiment would be held on that occasion. I did not send such notice to you, for I feared that if we should undertake such a gathering it would have a tendency to break up the reunion we had voted to hold at Viola this year. I did, however, give notice in some papers that a tent would be put up on the grounds for the use of such members of the Twelfth as would be there.

Though the arch proper had been completed before the time of our meeting, the two pieces of statuary—one of a boy soldier just come into camp, the other of the Grand Army man fifty years after—had not arrived. Because of this we were all greatly disappointed. The commission had been assured that the figures would be here in time, or they would have put the date of the dedication later.

I have said that the arch had, excepting these figures, been completed, yet, when I come to think of it, I must tell you that something else was lacking. Under the archway, on each side, there is to be set in the wall a bronze plate. On one plate there is to be the general inscription concerning the arch, on the other the number of every regiment and battery that was organized in Camp Randall during the war, with its date of muster in and that of its muster out. Also, there will be put down the number of regiments and batteries, with dates of muster in and out of the service, of those that were organized in other military camps in Wisconsin.

The regiments organized in Camp Randall were the 2d, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 20th, 23d, 29th, 30th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 40th, 42d, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 49th, 50th, 52d and 53d; also, the 11th and 12th batteries of light artillery and Companies A, E, F, G, H, I, K, L and M of the 1st heavy artillery. Company G of Berdan's United States Sharpshooters was also organized in Camp Randall. This makes 27 regiments, two batteries of light artillery, nine companies of heavy artillery and one company of sharpshooters.

These troops were organized in Milwaukee: **Camp Scott,**

the 1st, 3 months, infantry and 1st regiment reorganized, after its three months of service, for three years. **Camp Sigel**, the 9th, 24th, 26th and 27th infantry. **Camp Holton**, the 10th infantry. **Camp Trowbridge**, same place as Camp Holton, the 18th infantry. **Camp Washburn**, the 28th, 34th, 35th, 39th, 43d, 48th and 51st infantry, 2d cavalry, 13th light artillery and Companies B, C and D of the 1st heavy artillery. This makes, in the four Milwaukee camps, fourteen infantry regiments, one of cavalry, one battery of light artillery and three companies of heavy artillery.

These troops were organized in Racine, at **Camp Utley**, the 19th, 22d and 33d infantry and four companies of the 31st; and the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th batteries of light artillery. Six companies of the 31st were organized at Prairie du Chien.

The 1st cavalry went first into **Camp Fremont** at Ripon but moved later to **Camp Harvey**, Kenosha.

The 3d and 14th infantry regiments were organized at Fond du Lac. When the 3d was there it was **Camp Hamilton**. The 14th called it **Camp Wood**.

The 21st and 32d infantry regiments were organized at **Camp Bragg**, Oshkosh.

The 13th infantry was organized at **Camp Tredway**, Janesville, and the 3d cavalry at **Camp Barstow** near the same city.

The 25th infantry was organized at **Camp Salomon**, La Crosse.

The 19th infantry remained only a short time at Camp Utley before it was sent to Camp Randall for duty,—guarding Confederate prisoners,—where it was fully organized. The 25th, after its Indian campaign in Minnesota, spent some time in Camp Randall before going south.

I do not know that you have cared to read all about these Wisconsin camps, Comrade. If not, you may skip it. All the facts I have told you will go into bronze on our memorial arch. They are worth recording in a permanent form. Also, as I have said before in this letter, the dates of the muster in and muster out of all these troops is put down. Our own regiment was fully mustered November 5, 1861, and mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky, July 16th, 1865. These bronze plates, each about 40 x 50 inches in size, have not been put in place, but they are being made. I think I can send you pictures of them next year.

I may add here that steps are being taken to put up suitable

markers at these twelve military camps outside of Madison, telling what troops were organized there.

You may be interested to know that the commission whose business it was to erect markers in the great national military park at Vicksburg, telling where every regiment and battery was on duty in the siege, and to erect, also, our beautiful Wisconsin memorial there, the picture of which I sent you in my letter of last year, intend publishing in their forthcoming report to the governor a sketch of the full service of every body of troops connected with the campaign and the siege. The story of the service of our regiment, Comrade, will be found in that report,—a book well worth having.

And now I think I would better come back to the reunion in Camp Randall and the dedication of our arch. On Tuesday morning there were many people on the way to Camp Randall. The beautiful archway stood invitingly open and no one asked anyone for a pass. On the top of the knoll where the old guardhouse used to stand, Comrade Pratt, our comrade John Gallagher had erected a tent a hundred feet long. At one end there was a platform, and all about there was an army of chairs. Nearby stood a Rest Tent put up by the Ladies of the Grand Army, with a piano, chairs—rockers, even,—for the weary. At the foot of the hill the ladies of the Relief Corps had erected a big mess tent, with a commissary department, where, during the encampment, we got excellent meals—ice cream included—for twenty-five cents. By contrast of ideas we remembered the old mess house of a half a century ago. Not far from the big audience tent there were two other fine tents,—one for the comrades of the 11th and the other for those of the 12th; and they were open for everybody else who wanted to use them. Just west of the tents stood two war-time cannon,—as harmless dogs of war as if they were muzzled. And then just back of us, standing about sixty feet inside the old gate where we used to show our passes, was the real center of attraction for those two days,—our beautiful arch.

All about these grounds there were hundreds of people. There were grizzled old veterans along with their silver-haired dames. There were sons and daughters of veterans, with grandsons and granddaughters. Boys and girls came in off the streets. Automobiles brought load after load of people from up town until the hill looked much as it did on a pleasant afternoon when folks used



to come out from the city to see us on dress parade.

There was nothing formal on the program, except for a little while in the afternoon, till the evening campfire. In the meantime the reunion feature of our program was in full swing. Old comrades and their friends loitered around and visited as best pleased them. The whole thing was a reunion in the best possible sense. A drum corps kept the music going the most of the time, while groups of comrades sang the old camp songs. Others told stories of life in Camp Randall fifty years ago.

At two o'clock in the afternoon the old comrades of Wisconsin regiments got into line and had a short march around the grounds. When they came back in line near the tents Comrade George B. Merrick, Company A of the 30th Wisconsin, called the roll of regiments, asking all who belonged to each regiment, as its number was called, to step to the front, and then to march off to one side so that they could confer together. After this was over the crowd gathered around the top of the hill, where one of the men of our regiment gave a talk upon old Camp Randall as it used to be, pointing out the various points of interest of those days, and answering such questions as were asked.

### **The Big Campfire**

When 8 o'clock came that evening there was a great crowd on hand for the campfire. The big tent was packed full and the crowd reached away beyond. Exactly at eight o'clock a match was applied to the pile of tar barrels out in front of where the old guardhouse used to be. Then there was a most interesting camp scene. It reminded me of the pitch pine fires on a dark night in the Carolinas. As we wanted this to be a genuine campfire we had no other light, and in the great red glow of these flames we sang our camp songs and listened to eleven rapid-fire talks by old comrades, all but one of whom had once dwelt in tents on that old camp ground,—E. R. Reed, of the 2d infantry; J. A. Watrous, 6th; Byron S. Williams, 7th; A. G. Weissert, 8th; W. H. Bennett, 11th; Van S. Bennett, 12th; Pliny Norcross, 13th; David G. James, 16th; George B. Merrick, 30th; Colonel C. E. Warner, 36th; and Bishop Samuel Fallows, 32d, 40th and 49th. All these talks were of just the kind that make a campfire interesting,—short, bright and to the point.

And, Comrade McCallum, you should have heard the singing

that night as done by that great crowd. It was truly inspiring. None of us who were there can easily forget it. All but one song was sung by the crowd. Edward Swain, one of the sweet singers of Madison, sang in a rich, full, smooth tone that sweetest of soldier songs.—

Tenting tonight on the old camp ground, while the rest of us kept silent and listened—and remembered.

Let me tell you, Comrade Starkey, that during all this big campfire the people in the great crowd were as quiet during the speaking as if they were in church,—even the bunch of small boys who crowded around the speakers' platform. I wish you could have been there to breathe in the spirit of the occasion.

That night, Comrade Campbell, I slept in Camp Randall,—my son and I. I had a notion that I wanted to do just this thing once more and Lou wanted to keep me company. I did not expect that when we were in camp in 1861.

During the forenoon of the next day there was no formal program. People visited to suit themselves, and various bunches of comrades held their reunions. In the tent of the 11th Wisconsin there were sixty-five registered, and there were fifty-four of the survivors of the 23d.

Of our own regiment the following comrades were present a whole or part of the time: Adjutant Levi M. Bresee; Hospital Steward Joseph Curtis; Baldwin Rathbun, Company B; William B. Pine, Thomas Wilson and Erick Paul, Company C; Charles Bliss, Company D; Edwin Robinson, Orson Wright and Hosea W. Rood, Company E; Captain Van S. Bennett, John Sutherland, Edgar Eno, Albert J. Savage, Henry Shafer, Ransom Kellogg and L. D. Kellogg, Company I,—seventeen in all.

We held a pleasant meeting, and, after considerable discussion, decided that it would not be wise to undertake another reunion this year. It was thought that, as several had come to that meeting, they would not be so likely to attend another. And so it was voted unanimously to postpone the meeting at Viola until next year,—the present officers to hold over until that time.

### Dedication Services

At two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon people began to come to camp in crowds to attend the service of dedication. The big tent was packed full of people long before three o'clock. Colonel

Warner was the presiding officer, and he kept the big audience good natured by giving out some of his big stock of good stories. The good old Colonel is a genial, happy man, and his lively humor on this occasion was contagious.

I cannot tell you how good everything about this dedication service was. The addresses were eloquent, the music excellent. The spirit of the occasion led everyone on the program to do his best. Colonel Watrous, in making the presentation speech, reviewed briefly the work of the commission, and then spoke of the old days in Camp Randall. He told what good service many of the boy soldiers of the Civil War had since rendered our state and nation as citizens and public officers. Professor McGregor's speech of acceptance was, like all of his public addresses, clear and concise in language. It was patriotic in sentiment and scholarly in expression. Bishop Fallows is eloquent on every dignified occasion, and he held his audience spell bound on this one. It would take more time than I can now use to give you any adequate analysis of his address. The Trousdale church choir sang as if inspired, and I think they were, not only their leader, the Rev. E. E. Horth, pastor of the church, but every one of them.

I will put down for you, Comrade Fosbinder, the general program of the two days.

#### Tuesday, June 18.

Sunrise Gun.

9 o'clock—Registration, headquarters tent, Sons of Veterans—Reunion of comrades, companies and regiments.

12 o'clock until 2 p. m.—Rations issued from the mess tent, Woman's Relief Corps.

3 o'clock—Parade by regiments, comrades and their families. Description of the old camp by H. W. Rood. Roll call of regiments—George B. Merrick.

6 o'clock until 7—Rations at mess tent, Relief Corps.

8 o'clock—Open-air campfire—rails and tar barrels. Camp songs and rapid-fire talks.

10 o'clock—Taps. Lights out.

#### Wednesday, June 19.

Sunrise Gun.

7 o'clock till 8—Rations at mess tent, Relief Corps.

9 o'clock—further registration at headquarters. Reunions continued.

12 o'clock until 2 p. m.—Rations at mess tent, Relief Corps.

#### Program

National Hymn—America, Trousdale church choir and audience.

Invocation—Rev. W. J. McKay.

Patriotic Anthem—Our Flag, Trousdale church choir.

Presentation of Arch—Colonel J. A. Watrous, chairman of commission.

Acceptance of Arch for the State—Professor Duncan McGregor, private secretary to Governor McGovern.

Battle Hymn of the Republic—Trousdale church choir.

Dedicatory Address—Bishop Samuel Fallows, of Chicago.

Patriotic Anthem—Columbia, Queen of the Nations—Trousdale church choir.

Dedicatory Prayer—Rev. W. J. McKay.

Star Spangled Banner—Choir and audience.

Firing of Salute—Comrade John C. Martin, Cannoneer.

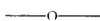
Soon after the close of the dedication services the old comrades and their friends began to say good-bye, and within two hours the camp ground looked something as ours used to look after we had struck tents and marched away.

The next day, when we began to talk it all over, we felt that everything about our reunion and dedication had been about as nearly ideal as it could be. The weather was delightful,—clear and not too warm. The attendance was large. Five hundred and sixty comrades had registered their names. Everything on the program had gone off just as planned; nobody shirked. There had been so happy a spirit manifest everywhere that everyone seemed to partake of it. It was a time to be pleasantly remembered all along our remaining march.

And so our Camp Randall Memorial Arch was most happily dedicated. Long may it stand, a silent teacher of patriotism.

The next day after the dedication a regiment of two thousand soldiers of the regular army—on a march to the military camp at Sparta—marched into Camp Randall for a rest of three days. As the men passed under our arch, led by a cavalcade of mounted officers, every officer, as a token of respect, removed his hat as he rode through.

I must tell you, Colonel Proudfit, that the park, to which this arch is the entrance, is in time to be made both beautiful and historic. We shall ask the next legislature to provide for an extension of the grounds, southward, that will take in a grove of twenty-eight fine oak trees. To the west of our park, where we used to drill and have dress parade, the university regiment is to have its drill ground, and, probably, an armory. It is now proposed by the university to remove from Camp Randall everything connected with the athletic grounds and to prepare a new and more modern athletic field on the lake shore some distance west of the university. This will leave the old camp ground about as clear as it was in war times. All of it belongs to the state. The university has no title to it, but has been granted the use of it.



### Deaths.

Since our last reunion I have heard of the death of Comrades as follows:

**Company A**—Jasper George, Manchester, New Hampshire, September 6, 1910; Harvey Law, New Richmond, June 26, 1912; Charles F. Miller, Prescott, May 10, 1912.

**Company D**—W. R. Wescott, Barton, November 25, 1911; Edward K. Lord, Chicago, January 16, 1912; James D. Miller, Easton, January 21, 1912.

**Company E**—Charles Headstream, Mauston, April 7, 1912; James E. Hoisington, Evansville, September 10, 1911; Charles S. Briggs, Reedsburg, June 12, 1912.

**Company H**—Lieutenant James Lennon, Appleton, February 29, 1912.

**Company K**—Samuel P. Wayne, Boscobel, April 17, 1912.

I presume there have been other deaths of which I have not heard. Will you not, Comrade, make it your business to report all facts concerning our boys that should be of interest to us,—removals, deaths, etc.?

## Financial Report

In order that you may know the condition of our treasury, I  
am sending you the following:

Amount on hand last report, August 29, 1911.....	\$60.80
Received at West Bend reunion, August 30, 1911.....	40.50

### Receipts since that time

1911			
August	31	John Ellingson .....	1.00
"	31	Mrs. Colonel Bryant .....	1.00
September	1	John Bell .....	1.00
"	1	Marcus Pratt .....	.50
"	8	P. S. Gilson .....	1.00
"	15	Stephen J. Davis .....	.25
"	15	Mrs. James Jackson .....	.50
"	16	Mrs. Susie Albert Nelson .....	1.00
November	15	Carrie Enderby .....	1.00
"	17	Joseph Curtis .....	1.00
"	19	Abraham Morehouse .....	3.00
"	20	Erick Paul .....	.50
December	4	John B. Jones .....	1.00
"	4	Hiram Schofield .....	.25
"	8	Samuel Albright .....	1.00
"	15	Kundt Johnson .....	1.00
"	23	Albert Savage .....	1.00
"	28	Interest on bank certificate .....	1.12
1912			
January	1	Harry Harris .....	1.00
"	18	Weceł Novak .....	.50
"	28	Samuel Varney .....	1.00
February	21	B. L. Eighmy .....	.50
June	20	William H Thayer .....	1.00
"	29	Emma A. Butler .....	1.00
"	19	Van S. Bennett .....	1.00
"	19	Henry Shafer .....	1.00
"	19	John Sutherland .....	.50
"	19	Ransom Kellogg .....	.50
"	19	L. D. Kellogg .....	.50
"	19	C. M. Bliss .....	1.00
"	19	Albert Savage .....	1.00

\$129.92

### Expenditures

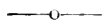
December 4, 1911	Paid for Printing Reunion Story.....	48.50
" " "	Paid for postage for " " .....	11.00
" " "	Paid for pictures for " " .....	3.00
June 25, 1912	Paid for tent at Camp Randall.....	3.00

Total \$65.50

Total amount received .....	\$129.92
Total amount expended .....	65.50

July 22, 1912 Amount on hand today .....	\$64.42
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If any one finds an error in this report, please let me know about it.



### Conclusion

Comrade, I have been hoping to get a picture of our arch to send you with this letter, but I think now I shall not be able to do so. The statuary has come, but the figures have not been erected. I do not wish to send a picture of it until it is complete. If I cannot get it ready for this letter, you will get it some other time.

I hope you will make it your business to attend our reunion at Viola next year. When you know of anything concerning our comrades that should be recorded, write to me. Help me keep my mailing list as nearly correct as practicable.

Cordially and Fraternally yours,

Hosea W. Rood.

Madison, Wisconsin, July 22, 1912.

P. S. Say, Comrade Fairbanks, see if you can recall what we were doing forty-eight years ago today.

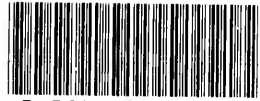
H. W. R.







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